

A RED HOT TIME.

Yesterday's Scene in the House
Exciting.

Messrs. Meredith and Funk Want
to Fight.

FRIENDS INTERFERE.

And Save Two Spoiled Faces
Perhaps.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—The house yesterday entered upon the consideration of appropriation bills. The fortification bill, carrying something over \$2,000,000, passed and then the pension appropriations was taken up. This bill usually leads to considerable display of political feuding, and yesterday was no exception. An altercation occurred between Mr. Meredith of Virginia and Mr. Funk of Illinois over the former's attempt to prove there were many fraudulent pensions on the rolls which almost resulted in a personal collision. Mr. Meredith, who was the aggressor, rushed over to the place where Mr. Funk was standing and shook his fist in the latter's face. Hot words were spoken, but friends interfered, and the speaker restored order before any blows were struck.

On motion of Mr. Sayers the house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Outhwaite in the chair, for the consideration of the fortifications appropriation bill. Mr. Livingston, in charge of the bill, explained the provisions. The total sum carried by the bill is \$3,119,000, upon an estimate of the fifty-first congress carried \$4,200,000. He explained the necessity for rigid economy. Agreed to.

The house next considered the appropriation bill. Mr. N. S. of Massachusetts in charge of the measure, explained its provisions. The bill carried for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, \$2,000,000 less than the bill last year. The original estimate for the coming fiscal year was \$100,000,000, but had been reduced and again down later by Committee-leader Loebson. Mr. O'Neill argued that while the appropriations for pensions might waver for a few years, the maximum of pensions appropriated had been passed and thereafter there would be a material reduction in the amount needed for pensions. There were on the rolls in 1890 900,000 pensioners. The annual increase has been steadily declining. The first year after the net of 1890 140,000 had been added to the rolls; the second year, 100,000; the third year, 60,000; the fourth year, 40,000. Mr. O'Neill took occasion, in the course of his speech, to defend the course of Commissioner Lockren. In reply to inquiries he believed the amount carried by the bill would meet the demands for all just pensions.

"Did I understand you to say there were many fraudulent pensioners on the rolls?" asked Mr. Peffer.

"You did not understand me to say anything of the kind," replied Mr. O'Neill sharply.

"Well, I say it," interposed Mr. Meredith, Democrat of Virginia, "and I will give you proof in the morning."

Mr. Groote of Vermont followed with an assault on Commissioner Lockren's action in his wholesale suspension of pensioners. He concluded with a glowing tribute to the valor, bravery and patriotism of the Union veterans.

Mr. Meredith made rather a sensational speech. He said that he protested against the pension roll as a roll of dishonor in the name of a state that had paid three times as much pensions as Vermont.

"That's because there are more of you," suggested Mr. Griggs.

"But we get no benefit," returned Mr. Meredith.

"That's because you were on the wrong side," suggested Mr. Johnson, Republican of Indiana.

"Whether a man is a patriot or a rebel," retorted Mr. Meredith, "depends upon the result. Success makes him a patriot and defeat makes a rebel. That was the case in 1875."

Toward the end of Mr. Meredith's speech a most exciting scene occurred, and what can be accounted for a personal collision between him and Mr. Funk of Illinois. Mr. Meredith was still talking about fraudulent pensions and was having an animated altercation with Mr. Doolittle, whose which had come under his (Meredith's) personal observation when a Union soldier was obtaining a pension for a disability which he (Meredith) claimed he did not have. "If I can judge from the fact that a man seems healthy and strong," said he, "and yet gets a pension by reason of a disability when I see him day by day, and week by week, and year by year, in my plain homely country way of speaking, I say that I believe the man lied when he went before the officials and swore he had been crippled in the army."

"I want to say, if the gentleman is honest," interrupted Mr. Funk, Republican of Illinois, rising in his place, "and is stating what he believes to be true, that if he does not make the case known to the proper authorities, he is not a good citizen."

"I want to say this," returned Mr. Meredith hotly, "that if the gentleman undertakes to insinuate that I am dishonest, if the gentleman undertakes to —" Without completing his sentence Mr. Meredith left his place to the right of the speaker's chair and hurried over to where Mr. Funk was standing in a side aisle to the left.

"I did not say so," protested Mr. Funk, as Mr. Meredith advanced toward him in a threatening manner.

"You had better not say so," retorted Mr. Meredith, still advancing up the aisle.

A personal encounter was imminent. Members crowded down about the belligerents amidst the most intense excitement and confusion. They were both talking at the same time. Finally Mr. Meredith clinched his fist and shook it under the

nose of his adversary. By this time Mr. Funk, who had previously displayed no feeling, showed out-screaming about stabbing by what he had said. Mr. Meredith again assumed a threatening posture, but the members who had crowded around gently took him by the shoulders as if to prevent a blow from being struck.

All this time Mr. Outhwaite, who was presiding in the committee of the whole, was pounding vigorously for order, but without effect, and Speaker Crisp, who had been hurriedly sent for, mounted the rostrum and assumed the gavel as he is allowed under the rules to do, when the house is in committee of the whole, in times of great disorder.

"I undertake to say you are not my keeper" shouted Mr. Meredith as he was backed down the aisle by his friends.

"I stand by that proposition," shouted back Mr. Funk, who was held on one side by Mr. Doolittle and on the other by Mr. Payne, "either here or anywhere else."

A few sharp raps of the speaker's gavel produced a measure of quiet. The house recognized the hand of the presiding officer. "The sergeant-at-arms will cause the gentlemen to be seated," said the speaker in firm tones. "Every gentleman will be seated." He continued.

The assistant sergeant rapidly cleared the aisle and members resumed their seats. The excitement quieted down. Mr. Meredith walked back to his seat and sat down.

After order had been restored, Mr. Meredith arose and protested, and laughed, that he was not excited, but that gentlemen could hardly do here what they might do elsewhere. With this parting shot he closed his speech, and immediately the house, which was at a high tension, on motion of Mr. Sayers, took a recess until 1 o'clock, the evening session to be devoted to pension legislation.

THE TARIFF BILL.

Finance Committee Listen to Senators Who Suggest Modifications in the Measure.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—The Democratic majority of the senate committee on finance gave the entire day to senators who advocate changes in the Wilson bill as amended by the senate sub-committee on tariff.

Senator Hill was the first of the senators of this class admitted. He pleaded for protection for the manufacturing interests of the New England states as well as for New York, as none of those states are represented in the senate by Democratic senators.

A large share of the day was given to a discussion of the income tax and the changes made by the committee from specific to ad valorem duties. On these features Senator Hill requested and amplified the arguments made in opposition in the caucus.

Senators White and Taffey were given a hearing. It was denied entirely to Louisiana sugar interests. After the Louisiana senators had concluded, Senator White of California was admitted to make a brief statement concerning what our friends and when he concluded the committee went into secret session and began a force of police are scouring the country.

There were four of the robbers in the party and they wore white masks, but none of them could be recognized. As they passed and creating consternation among the passengers, who crawled down under the seats and hid their valuables. When the train reached Stockbridge, it was found over 100 bullets had hit it. Messages were at once sent back to this city and a force of police are scouring the country.

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DUN'S REVIEW OF TRADE.

Manufactures are Slowly Increasing by Reason of Exhaustion of Stocks.

NEW YORK, March 3.—R. G. Dunn & Co's Weekly Review of Trade says:

With no more definite information than a week ago regarding the outcome of financial or revenue disputes, perhaps more people have come to the belief that the end will answer their wishes. Certainly either more are taking limited risks in business, especially in stocks. A large share of the day was given to a discussion of the income tax and the changes made by the committee from specific to ad valorem duties. On these features Senator Hill requested and amplified the arguments made in opposition in the caucus.

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